



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Hunterston A

1 January – 31 March 2020

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions when there. Otherwise, any person wishing to enquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR (<http://www.onr.org.uk/feedback.htm>).

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1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

ONR attended Hunterston A (HNA) site on the following dates: -

- 28 - 30 January 2020
- 11 – 12 March 2020

Some of the inspections were carried out with inspectors from the Licensee's internal regulatory organisation and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- The conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65);
- The Energy Act 2013;
- The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- Regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, ONR carried out the following inspections at HNA:

Compliance Inspections focus on single LC compliance examined from areas across the site. Each area may include multiple systems. The LCs inspected during this period were: -

- LC7 Incidents on site
- LC12 DAPs and SQEPs
- LC24 Operating Instructions
- LC26 Control and supervision of operations

ONR also carried out an Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) inspection during the period.

For the LC Compliance Inspections and the IRR17 inspection, ONR judged that the arrangements made by the site were being implemented adequately.

Where other improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues, and the site inspector will monitor progress during future visits. Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and incidents. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

There were no significant safety matters reported by HNA during this period.

Covid-19

The Hunterston A licensed site has been put into a quiescent safe-state. All decommissioning and radioactive waste handling activities have ceased. This pause in operations has allowed the number of personnel on site to be reduced to a level that some monitoring and surveillance of plant can be undertaken and that security can be sustained. The majority of personnel are now working from home. Magnox Limited (ML) wrote to ONR on 26 March 2020 confirming this position. The ML Internal Oversight team has checked independently that the pandemic arrangements have been properly implemented.

Emergency preparedness is being maintained through a duty cover team at each site in accordance with ONR approved emergency arrangements. These arrangements include the provision to call in additional personnel and the emergency services onto site to assist ML staff. These plans have been regularly rehearsed and observed by ONR inspectors during emergency exercises in the recent past.

Overall ONR is content with the actions taken by ML to make safe the HNA site under these exceptional circumstances. The site inspector is in touch regularly with HNA personnel to discuss any changes to the arrangements and any potential emerging safety or regulatory issues.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site Licence Conditions (LC) issues regulatory documents which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken. These are usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs), but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety.

No LIs or Enforcement Notices were issued to HNA within the reporting period.

Reports detailing regulatory decisions are available on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

5. NEWS FROM ONR

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) (ONR position)

ONR is continuing to protect society by securing safe nuclear operations during the Coronavirus pandemic. ONR staff continue to work from home, in line with government advice. We have considered our priorities, have deferred non-critical activities, and are carrying out as much of our work as possible via videoconference, phone and email. Our regulatory focus includes assurance, where appropriate, from site licensees that they are applying the public health measures introduced to reduce the spread of coronavirus. A limited number of our inspectors can, as key workers, continue to travel to site as necessary to conduct urgent and essential regulatory inspections. Nuclear sites have been reducing non-essential activities so as to protect staff, infrastructure, and the public. As always, we are regulating those activities to ensure they are carried out safely and securely.

Enforcement Action

ONR served an [Enforcement Notice](#) on Urenco UK Ltd following a fire safety inspection at its Capenhurst Works in Cheshire during December 2019. The notice was issued in response to shortfalls identified in the fire alarm and detection systems at one of the site's facilities.

In February ONR announced that [Sellafield Limited had complied](#) with an Improvement Notice relating to staff training, operating procedures and procedural adherence that they were served with in May 2019.

Regulatory Updates

In January ONR published an update to its Safety Assessment Principles, to incorporate some relatively minor revisions including typographical corrections and updates to reflect changes to the UK's nuclear regulatory framework since 2014.

In February ONR completed Step 3 of the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) of the UK HPR1000 design, and took the decision to progress to Step 4 of the GDA. During Step 3, ONR increased its regulatory scrutiny and undertook a more detailed assessment of the design, focusing on the methods and approaches used by the GDA Requesting Party to underpin their safety and security claims.

In March we published the Quarterly [Statement of Civil Incidents](#) for the period 1 October to 31 December 2019. During this reporting period there were two civil incidents at nuclear licensed sites within Great Britain that met the Ministerial Reporting Criteria as defined within the Nuclear Installations (Dangerous Occurrences) Regulations 1965 and ONR guidance in relation to notifying and reporting incidents and events.

Stakeholder Engagement

On 15 January ONR launched a four-week public consultation on its draft 2025 Strategy. Once agreed, the strategy will set our direction and priorities for the next five years. To support the public consultation we held a webinar for NGOs and other stakeholders in which our Chief Executive, Adrienne Kelbie, and Technical Director, Anthony Hart, gave an overview of the strategy and welcomed questions and comments. The strategy is due to be published in May 2020.

In January, ONR achieved Level 3 Disability Confident (Leader) status, recognising our desire to put people first and create an environment in which everyone can thrive. The government-backed scheme encourages employers to think differently about disability and take action to improve how they recruit, retain and develop disabled people.

In February, we announced the appointment of two new members to the ONR Board. Dr Janet Wilson took up the appointment on 1 April 2020 and Tracey Matthews will take up her appointment on 1 June 2020 – both appointments are for five year terms.

In February more than 70 stakeholders involved in the transport of radioactive material attended a conference organised by ONR's Transport Competent Authority (TCA) team. The event provided a good opportunity for the TCA team to share their expectations on compliance with regulations governing the transport of radioactive material.

All our latest news is available on our website www.onr.org.uk.

6. CONTACTS

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